

RIG: GAC, rver, Jr.  
NIT: DCI/SAVA

Approved For Release 2005/08/12 : GIA-RDP80R01720R000700020052-2

TOTAL COPIES:

21-3

5

6

7

8

DATE: 15Sept71

ABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

PER #

INDEX  NO INDEX  RETURN TO BRANCH

FILE RD

25X1

25X1

DNA:

SAVA

INFO

FILE, VR, DDP, ADDP,

(classification)

c/c

(date and time filed)

(elte) (pica)  
(reference number)

SECRET

15 SEP 71 21 232

CITE

25X1

SAIGON

25X1

25X1

1. WE HAVE BEEN ASKED BY [REDACTED] STAFF TO RESOLVE APPARENT

DISCREPANCY ON VOTING DETAILS BETWEEN LINE TAKEN IN THIEU'S

11 SEPTEMBER SPEECH AND TEXT OF ELECTION LAW'S ARTICLE 31.

ISSUE INVOLVED IS THE BLANK BALLOT QUESTION.

2. AS YOU WELL KNOW, SOUTH VIETNAMESE VOTING PROCEDURES

DO NOT INVOLVE MARKING OR CHECKING A BALLOT FOR A PREFERRED

SLATE/CANDIDATE, AS IS THE COMMON U.S. PRACTICE. INSTEAD,

VIETNAMESE VOTERS ARE ISSUED AN OFFICIAL ENVELOPE WITH A

SEPARATE BALLOT FOR EACH CANDIDATE OR SLATE. IN THE THEORETICAL

PRIVACY OF THE VOTING BOOTH, THE VOTER INSERTS HIS CHOICE'S

BALLOT IN THE ENVELOPE, THROWS THE OTHERS IN A RECEPTACLE

AND DROPS THE ENVELOPE WITH CHOSEN BALLOT INSIDE IN THE BALLOT

BOX. THE VOTER MAKES NO MARKS ON ANYTHING.

3. THIEU HAS PUBLICLY STATED THERE WILL NOT BE A "NO"

BALLOT IN THE 3 OCTOBER ELECTION. IF WE UNDERSTAND HIM, HE

COORDINATING OFFICERS

RELEASING OFFICER

SECRET

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

AUTHENTICATING  
OFFICER

COPY NO.

Approved For Release 2005/08/12 : GIA-RDP80R01720R000700020052-2  
REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS UNLAWFUL

MESSAGE FORM  
TOTAL COPIES:

ROUTING NUMBER INITIALED DATE	
1	5
2	6
3	7
4	8

Approved For Release 2005/08/12 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000700020052-2

SECRET

STATE  
UNIT  
EXT  
DATE:

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

INDEX     NO INDEX     RETURN TO \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH     FILE  
 FILE IN CS FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

CONF:

INFO  
 FILE, VR,

(classification)

(date and time filed)

(elite)

25X1

CITE DIRECTOR

TO

PAGE TWO

MEANS THERE WILL BE NO SECOND "NO" SLIP ISSUED TO VOTERS GIVING THEM CHOICE OF WHICH TO INSERT IN THEIR ENVELOPES. THIEU HAS ALSO SAID THAT TO CAST NEGATIVE VOTE, VOTERS MUST "CAST THEIR BALLOTS IN AN IRREGULAR MANNER." IN OTHER PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS YOU AND AMBASSADOR HAVE REPORTED, THIEU HAS TAKEN TACK THAT "BLANK" BALLOTS WILL NOT BE COUNTED IN TALLYING RESULTS.

4. ABOVE RAISES TWO PROBLEMS. IN VIETNAMESE PRACTICE THERE CAN BE NO SUCH THING AS A BLANK BALLOT. SINCE VOTER IS NOT SUPPOSED TO ~~MAXX~~ MARK ANYTHING ON BALLOT HE CHOOSES, ALL BALLOTS CAST ARE BLANK. SECONDLY, WHAT ABOUT EMPTY OFFICIAL VOTING ENVELOPES DROPPED IN BALLOT BOX WITH NO BALLOT INSIDE? UNDER ARTICLE 31 OF ELECTION LAW, THIS IS EXPLICITLY ONE OF THE SIX WAYS FOR A BALLOT TO BE CONSIDERED INVALID. IF THIEU MEANS EMPTY ENVELOPES WILL BE CONSTRUED AS BLANKS AND NOT COUNTED

5  
4  
3  
2  
1

IN FINAL TALLY, THEN HE IS GOING DIRECTLY AGAINST LETTER OF ELECTION LAW THAT, IN OTHER CONTEXTS, HE USES AS RATIONALE FOR

COORDINATING OFFICERS

RELEASING OFFICER

SECRET

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

AUTHENTICATING  
OFFICER

Approved For Release 2005/08/12 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000700020052-2  
REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED.

COPY NO.

ORIG:  
UNIT:  
EXT:  
DATE:

Approved For Release 2005/08/12 : CIA-RDP80R04720R000700020052-2  
**SECRET**

MESSAGE FORM  
TOTAL COPIES:

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS - SEEN BY

		5
3		7
4		8

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

INDEX     NO INDEX     RETURN TO \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH     FILE RID  
 FILE IN CS FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

CONF:

**I  
N  
F  
O** FILE, VR,

(classification)

(date and time filed)

(filed)

(pics)

CITE DIREC

25X1

TO NOT HAVING A FORMAL QUOTE NO UNQUOTE BALLOT. WE URGENTLY  
NEED ANY LIGHT OR CLARIFICATION YOU CAN SHED ON THESE  
APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS.

5. THE SIX INVALIDATION CRITERIA OF ARTICLE 31 WERE NOT  
DRAFTED TO SERVE AS VEHICLES FOR CASTING NEGATIVE VOTES.  
NONETHELESS, THREE OF THEM EASILY COULD BE SO EMPLOYED:  
EMPTY ENVELOPES, QUOTE INSCRIPTION OR SIGN UNQUOTE ON  
ENVELOPE OR BALLOT, TORN BALLOT. IF THIEU SO DESIRED  
(WHICH HE CLEARLY DOES NOT) GVN COULD KEM READILY FIX ON  
ONE OF THESE AS BASIS FOR SIMPLE, STRICTLY KOSHER WAY OF  
CASTING QUOTE NO UNQUOTE VOTE AND THEN SO INSTRUCT THE  
ELECTORATE.

END OF MESSAGE

25X1

25X1

C/FE

C

✓

25X1

George A. Carver, Jr.  
SAVA

5 25X1

4

2

1

COORDINATING OFFICERS

RELEASING OFFICER

**SECRET**

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

AUTHENTICATING  
OFFICER

Approved For Release 2005/08/12 : CIA-RDP80R04720R000700020052-2  
REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED.

COPY NO.